

been requested of the NPS by NCPC to administratively redress that agency's procedural issue resolved by this legislation.

The second section directs that the procedural steps of the Commemorative Works Act shall be used for the approval of those few aspects of the Memorial not already finalized. These items are essentially the color of the granite, the flag poles, sculptural elements, the wording of the inscriptions to be placed on the memorial, and final adjustments to the level of lighting. These matters will be presented in due course by the NPS, representing the Secretary of the Interior and acting on behalf of the ABMC, to the two approving commissions designated by the Commemorative Works Act: the CFA and the NCPC.

To further place this legislation in context it is important to briefly describe the extensive, democratic deliberative process through which the site and design were selected.

After receiving Congressional approval in October 1994 to locate the Memorial within the National Monumental Core, many public hearings regarding site selection were conducted including meetings of the National Capital Memorial Commission (NCMC), (May 9 and June 20, 1995), the CFA (July 27 and September 19, 1995), and the NCPC (July 27 and October 5, 1995). In the course of these meetings, the CFA and NCPC, in consultation with the ABMC and NCMC, reviewed eight proposed sites for the Memorial. Through review of these proposals, the possibility of including the Rainbow Pool in the site for the Memorial arose at the June 20, 1995, NCMC public meeting. As the deliberations continued pursuant to the Commemorative Works Act, the appropriateness and potential of the Rainbow Pool as a site for the Memorial became readily apparent. The Rainbow Pool site was approved at an open, public meeting of the CFA on September 19, 1995, and the NCPC on October 5, 1995. President Clinton formally dedicated the Rainbow Pool site on Veterans' Day 1995.

In 1996, a national two-stage competition to select the designer for the Memorial was conducted in accordance with the GSA's Design Excellence program. Over four hundred entries were reviewed by a distinguished Evaluation Board that selected six competition finalists. From these six finalists, a design jury composed of outstanding architects, landscape architects, architectural critics and WWII veterans, independently and unanimously recommended a design team headed by Friedrich St. Florian of the Rhode Island School of Design. The Evaluation Board concurred and ABMC approved the recommendation on November 20, 1996. On January 17, 1997, President Clinton announced the Friedrich St. Florian team as the winning design team, with Leo A. Daly, a pre-eminent national firm, serving as architect-engineer.

Through the Commemorative Works Act process, the World War II Memorial design underwent three general phases of public review and approval: design concept, preliminary design and final design. The Memorial design has evolved through input and participation by the reviewing commissions and the public. In particular, at public hearings held in July of 1997, both the CFA and the NCPC considered Friedrich St. Florian's initial design concept and reconsidered the approvals of the Rainbow Pool Site. Both commissions reaffirmed selection of the Rainbow Pool site on more

than one occasion; however, both also requested the consideration of substantial changes to the design concept. The design team subsequently undertook extensive efforts to address all concerns raised by the reviewing commissions and the public. Over the course of three years and nine more public meetings, the Memorial design continued to evolve to its finally approved form. As a result of the extensive public participation and careful review by the respective commissions and other governmental agencies, the final design is one which enhances the site, preserves its historic vistas, and preserves the Rainbow Pool by restoring it and making it a part of a national commemorative work.

Finally, in the course of authorizing this Memorial, Congress asked the American people to support the project through voluntary donations. They certainly responded. The memorial fund-raising campaign, under the leadership of Senator Bob Dole and Frederick W. Smith, Chairman and CEO of FedEx Corporation, received financial support from half a million individual Americans, hundreds of corporations and foundations, dozens of civic, fraternal and professional organizations, 48 state legislatures, 1,100 schools, and more than 450 veterans groups representing 11 million veterans providing the funds necessary to construct the Memorial. With this legislation, we will ensure that the Memorial is created within the lifetimes of a significant number of those we honor.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, last week this body overwhelmingly approved H.R. 1696 by a vote of 400-15. The Members of this body clearly want the construction of a World War II memorial in the District of Columbia to be expedited.

I am pleased that Members of the other body have taken the action to expedite the memorial construction. H.R. 1696, as approved by the Senate, will expedite construction of the World War II memorial at the dedicated Rainbow Pool site on the Mall.

Mr. Speaker, let us approve this measure now and send it back to the President, and move forward with the construction of the World War II memorial in the District of Columbia.

The National World War II Memorial will honor all Americans who served in the Armed Forces during World War II, as well as the millions of other Americans who contributed in so many different ways.

Mr. Speaker, the time to construct this memorial is now. More than 50 years after the end of World War II, there still is no fitting memorial for the service and sacrifices of millions of Americans who preserved democracy and defeated totalitarianism in World War II. Mr. Speaker, the time to construct this memorial is now.

I again commend my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP), for his effective leadership on this issue. I urge every Member of the House to support this resolution. The gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP) is one of the heroes of World

War II. To the gentleman and the others of his generation, we thank them for their service and sacrifice. It is time to build a memorial to honor their actions. We appreciate them very much.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON).

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me, and for bringing this back so quickly to the House floor after a Senate amendment.

Mr. Speaker, as we approach Memorial Day, I think there are two things that we can keep in mind. Actually, there are countless things we should keep in mind, but there are two things that I always try to emphasize when I am talking to schoolkids.

One is, we should remember in our memorial to our war dead that they were kids themselves. As I look at a group of high school students, and say, "Think about the graveyards of all the war heroes that we see, and remember, they were closer to your age than the white-haired man in the bleacher who is back here alive today. The people who fought so hard for our freedom and sacrificed their lives, they were yet kids themselves, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 years old; very, very young people."

We should also remember that they were hometown. There is not a county or city in America that we cannot go to that did not have people who died in World War II. In most towns, they had somebody who died in Vietnam, North Korea, World War I, or any one of other conflicts that have been fought in the name of freedom around our country. As we do this, keep in mind that they were young, and that they were our neighbors and friends.

What we need to do in honoring them is to get this monument built. We have had all kinds of hearings. It has met the approval of the National Environmental Policy Act and the Commemorative Works Act. It has the approval of all the appropriate commissions. It has gone through countless hearings, site and design work has been approved, and the construction permit has already been issued. It is time to move forward.

If we think about it in these terms, 16 million people were involved in World War II. Today, only about 5 million are left alive, and we lose about 1,000 a day. It is time to move forward for the honor of these very brave, very historically significant men and women of such worth to our country.

The fact that we have not already built a monument, to me, is atrocious. I am glad that Democrats, Republicans, and Independents are united on this. Let us pass this bill and let us break ground by Memorial Day.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 8 minutes to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON).